

In the Claims:

1 - 9 (canceled)

10. (currently amended) An automatic, self-contained device for detecting toxic agents in a water supply comprising:

- a. an analyzer means for detecting at least one toxic agent in a water sample, said analyzer means comprising a fluorometer means for measuring photosynthetic activity of naturally occurring, indigenous photosynthetic organisms in the water and introduced into said analyzer means with the water sample;
- b. a first reservoir means for holding the water sample for a first pre-selected period of time before the water sample is introduced into said analyzer means to allow settling of sediment contained within the water sample and ~~for preventing to prevent~~ settled sediment from entering said analyzer means, ~~said first reservoir delaying the analysis of a water sample for a sufficient time to allow settling of sediment contained within the water sample~~, said first reservoir means having an inlet for introducing water into said first reservoir means, a sampling tube for sampling water contained in said first reservoir means above a predetermined sediment level, an air purge tube for allowing air to escape from said first reservoir means, and a drain for exhausting sediment and water from said first reservoir means;
- c. a second reservoir means for holding the water sample for a second pre-selected period of time to allow completion of a dark adaptation cycle of photosynthetic organisms contained within the water sample before the water sample is introduced into said analyzer means, ~~said second reservoir delaying the analysis of a water sample for a sufficient time to allow completion of a dark adaptation cycle of photosynthetic organisms contained within the water sample~~, said second reservoir means having an inlet in fluid communication with said sampling tube and an outlet in fluid communication with said analyzer means; and,

- d. an electronics package configured for controlling the flow of consecutive water samples through said first reservoir means so that less than 10% of a newest water sample is mixed with water from a previous sample in order to increase sensitivity of fluorescence analysis while decreasing total time required to perform fluorescence analysis, controlling the flow of water sample through said second reservoir means and said analyzer means, controlling said analyzer means, discharging water samples from said analyzer means, analyzing raw data from said analyzer means, and emitting a signal indicating the presence of at least one toxic agent in a water sample.